

**To:** Whitley, Christopher[Whitley.Christopher@epa.gov]  
**From:** Bryan, David  
**Sent:** Wed 12/2/2015 3:27:02 PM  
**Subject:** RE: OPA Daily Digest, 12/1/15

Have added an additional appointment today. Can you do the DD this afternoon too? I will be shutting down at 2 p.m.

David W. Bryan, APR

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**From:** Whitley, Christopher  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 01, 2015 3:10 PM  
**To:** R7 Daily Digest INBOX <R7\_Daily\_Digest\_INBOX@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** OPA Daily Digest, 12/1/15  
**Importance:** High

## OPA Daily Digest – 12/01/15

Upcoming EPA Region 7 Events by Division

New additions noted with an asterisk

**RA:**

**12/2/15** – Courtesy visit with Joseph Miniace, FAA Regional Administrator. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

**12/8-9/15** - Four State Directors Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Dick Sumpter, 7661

**12/11/15** – Kansas Farmers Union State Convention, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

**12/14/15** - Courtesy Visit with Rob Manes and John Cougher, The Nature Conservancy, Regional Office.  
Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

**DRA:**

**12/2/15** – Courtesy visit with Joseph Miniace, FAA Regional Administrator. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

**12/8-9/15** - Four State Directors Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Dick Sumpter, 7661

**12/14/15** - Courtesy Visit with Rob Manes and John Cougher, The Nature Conservancy, Regional Office.  
Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

**RA/Immediate Office**

None

**Other Events**

**AWMD**

**\*12/2/15** - Interagency Environmental Leadership Council quarterly meeting for the Bannister Federal Center complex, GSA Regional Office, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Don Lininger, 7724

**12/3/15** – Meet with Iowa Department of Natural Resources Air Quality Bureau and observe Kaizen event, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Heather Hamilton, 7039

**12/7/15** – Wolf Creek Nuclear Plant exercise, Burlington, Kan. Contact: Chuck Hooper, 7271

**12/8-10/15** – 2015 National Capacity Development and Operator Certification Workshop with EPA and states, Dallas, Tex. Contact: Bob Dunlevy, 7798

**12/10/15** - Mid-America Regional Council's Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Fatima Ndiaye, 7383

**12/10-12/15** – U.S. Department of Agriculture Northern Plains Regional Climate Hub and Department of the Interior Joint Stakeholders Committee Meeting, Fort Collins, Colo. Contact: Amy Shields, 7396

**12/11/15** – Missouri Emergency Response Commission meeting, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Terri Blunk, 7013

**12/16/15** – Executive Order 13650 Federal Inspector training, EPA Regional Office, Lenexa, Kan. Contact: George Hess, 7540

**CNSL**

None

**ECO**

**12/2/15** – Friends of the Kaw, Wyandotte High School, Kansas, Kan. Contact: Pamela Houston, 7699

**\*12/11/15** – EPA's Clean Power Plan and Climate Change, Anita B Gorman Discovery Center, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Tamara Freeman, 7094; Althea Moses, 7649

**12/14/15** – Friends of the Kaw, Wyandotte High School, Kansas, Kan. Contact: Pamela Houston, 7699

**12/18/15** – Friends of the Kaw, Wyandotte High School, Kansas, Kan. Contact: Pamela Houston, 7699

**1/6/16** – Friends of the Kaw, Wyandotte High School, Kansas, Kan. Contact: Pamela Houston, 7699

**1/11/16** – Friends of the Kaw, Wyandotte High School, Kansas, Kan. Contact: Pamela Houston, 7699

## **ENST**

**11/30/15-12/04/15** – Office of Research and Development NetZero Green Infrastructure/Water Reuse Research site visit, Ft. Riley, Kan. Contact: Brenda Groskinsky, 7188.

## **PLMG**

**11/30-12/3/15** – State/EPA Process Improvement Network Training & Meeting; Des Moines, IA. Contact: Wendy Lubbe, 7551; Jonathan Cooper, 7287; or Katie Howard, 7861.

## **RA/OPA**

**\*12/8/15** – Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Radioisotope Environmental Impact Statement public meeting and open house, Columbia, Mo. Contact: David Bryan, 7433

## **SUPR**

**12/1-3/15** – National Removal Managers meeting, Leesburg, Va. Contact: Ken Buchholz, 7473.

**12/3/15** – FEMA Training and Exercise Planning meeting with regional agency partners, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: David Williams, 7625.

**\*12/7-11/15** – On-Scene Coordinator Readiness Work Group and Academy Training Board meetings, Arlington, Va. Contact: Heath Smith, 636-326-4724.

**12/10/15** – Video teleconference with EPA HQ and Federal Emergency Management Agency to discuss ESF-10 briefing to Incident Management Assistance Teams, Regional Emergency Operations Center, Regional Office. Contact: Dave Williams, 7625.

**\*12/10/15** – Meeting with Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma stakeholders involved with the Tri-State Mining District Surface Water and Sediment Transport modeling to brief initial modeling results and plan future efforts addressing mining impacts on the Spring and Neosho River watersheds, Webb City, Mo. (Route 66 Event Center). Contact: Mark Doolan, 7169.

**12/10/15** – Meeting with Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality to discuss exit strategy for 10th St. site, Hastings, Neb. Contact: Scott Marquess, 7131.

**12/16-17/15** – FEMA Regional Incident Steering Committee (RISC) meeting at Region 7 Federal Emergency Management Agency, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Dave Williams, 7625.

**12/14-18/15** — Removal assessment at the Citizens Gas & Electric Former Manufactured Gas Plant (FMGP) site in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Contact: Kevin Larson, 7808.

## **WWPD**

**12/8-10/15** – 2015 National Capacity Development and Operator Certification Workshop with EPA and states, Dallas, Tex. Contact: Bob Dunlevy, 7798

**12/10-12/15** – U.S. Department of Agriculture Northern Plains Regional Climate Hub and Department of the Interior Joint Stakeholders Committee Meeting, Fort Collins, Colo. Contact: Amy Shields, 7396

**Congressional Inquiries:**

**Rep. Ann Wagner** – 11/9/15 – Letter – Questions about West Lake Landfill site. Due: 11/24/15. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

**Sen. Deb Fischer** – 11/5/15 – Letter – Questions about Region 7 investigations on enforcement of lead-based paint regulations in Nebraska. Due: 11/19/15. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (closed)

**State Government Inquiries:**

None

**Press Inquiries:**

**KIOS 91.5, Omaha Public Radio** – Cheril Lee – 10/19/15 – Requests interview about the newly award Environmental Justice Small Grant to Together Incorporated of Metropolitan Omaha. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

**KSDK-TV Ch. 5** – Jason Aubry – 11/19/15 – Requested statement from Region 7 regarding legislation to transfer authority at West Lake Landfill from EPA to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers FUSRAP. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (open)

**Lincoln (Neb.) Journal-Star** – Nick Bergen - 11/30/15 – Question regarding how the RFS media call will work. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (closed)

**Iowa Agribusiness** – 11/30/15 – Question regarding how to join the RFS media call. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

**Fleet News Daily** – David Field – Called to thank us for including their publications in the news release distribution. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (closed)

#### **Press Releases:**

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

#### **Fact Sheets:**

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

#### **Environmental Stories:**

**WHO TV, Channel 13, Des Moines (+video)- New Region 7 EPA Administrator Talks Iowa** - 12/1/15 - This year, leadership exchanged hands and David Geiger had the opportunity to talk to the new administrator, Mark Hague. He's not new to the region. Hague grew up in Missouri and was the deputy to the former administrator Karl Brooks. David asked Hague what his goals are for the region and Iowa in particular. <http://whotv.com/2015/12/01/new-region-7-epa-administrator-talks-iowa/>

**POWER - Goldilocks, Ozone, and Obama's EPA** - 12/1/15 - There's an old saying in Washington that when everyone is upset, you've probably done something right. By that measure, EPA's latest update to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone was a home run. <http://www.powermag.com/goldilocks-ozone-obamas-epa/>

**Associated Press - Monsanto pledges to be carbon neutral by 2021** - 12/1/15 - Monsanto Co. plans to make its operations carbon neutral by 2021, in part by working with farmers who use its products to help them reduce carbon emissions, the company's CEO told The Associated Press.

[http://qctimes.com/news/national/monsanto-pledges-to-be-carbon-neutral-by/article\\_3e8b418e-6cd0-50cb-ad84-08cd3de56efd.html](http://qctimes.com/news/national/monsanto-pledges-to-be-carbon-neutral-by/article_3e8b418e-6cd0-50cb-ad84-08cd3de56efd.html)

**Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Gazette - City seeks EPA study of Cedar Lake sediment | Worry of toxins has blocked redevelopment** - 12/1/15 - New life looks more possible for the 115-acre Cedar Lake, which sits in an industrial area next to Interstate 380 just north of downtown. On Tuesday, the City Council here is slated to agree to apply for a \$200,000 brownfield grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which, if secured, will pay for a Phase II environmental site assessment of the lake to determine if any toxins are in the lake's sediment. <http://www.thegazette.com/subject/news/government/city-seeks-epa-study-of-cedar-lake-sediment-20151130>

**Midwest Energy News - Iowa agency nudges farmers toward efficiency and renewables** - 12/1/15 - For a few years Chuck Feldman toyed with the idea of making a hefty investment in a new dryer for his grain operation in northeast Iowa. Grain drying accounts for a huge amount of his farm's energy use, and Feldman suspected he might be able to shrink that. <http://midwestenergynews.com/2015/12/01/iowa-agency-nudges-farmers-towards-efficiency-and-renewables/>

**Townhall (opinion) - Clean Power Plan Allows Government to Control Our Lives** - 11/30/15 - Let's call the EPA's power grab vis a vis the Clean Power Plan what it is. It's the collusion of special interests and the government. Special interests and their lobbyists, more aggressively than ever, are attempting to create winners out of losers, and losers out of winners. At the end of the day, it's about power over our lives, and it's at the expense of our freedom. <http://townhall.com/columnists/budbrigham/2015/11/30/clean-power-plan-allows-government-to-control-our-lives-n2087016/page/full>

**Forbes (opinion) - The EPA's Budget Deniers** - 11/30/15 - Every citizen ought to be especially concerned about the EPA as they ramp up their rhetoric to match their newly expanded mission – defending America from our #1 adversary, climate change. If you're a "climate change denier" the EPA may come and get you, but if you're a budget denier within the EPA you might just earn yourself a new recliner. <http://www.forbes.com/sites/adamandrzejewski/2015/11/30/epas-budget-deniers/>

**Forbes - Swap Fossil-Fuel Subsidies For Carbon Tax, World Leaders Urge** - 12/1/15 - The first day of the Paris Climate Conference began with 40 nations declaring war on fossil-fuel subsidies and ended with six nations, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund calling for a global carbon tax. France was in both camps. <http://www.forbes.com/sites/jeffmcmahon/2015/12/01/swap-fossil-fuel-subsidies-for-carbon-tax/>

**EnergyWire - Could an attack spell 'Lights Out' for the power grid?** - 11/30/15 - This month, thousands of power grid operators were challenged to respond to an imaginary assault on the nation's



electrical networks. The consequences of the Pearl Harbor-scale war game were said to be devastating. <http://www.eenews.net/stories/1060028635>

**Utility DIVE - Report: Energy efficiency could slash \$250B annually from decarbonization costs - 11/30/15** - A new report from ClimateWorks finds global energy efficiency programs could neutralize the cost of decarbonization, slashing \$250 billion each year to save up to \$2.8 trillion through 2030, Energy Efficiency Markets reports. <http://www.utilitydive.com/news/report-energy-efficiency-could-slash-250b-annually-from-decarbonization-c/409956/>

**ClimateWire - Experts say accurate Clean Power Plan cost estimate won't arrive for years - 11/30/15** - Interest groups recently have rolled out a proliferating number of price tags for the Obama administration's new limits on power plant carbon emissions. The estimates are often vastly different -- some call the rule affordable; others determine it will be costly. Nonetheless, they are already ammunition for politicians debating the Clean Power Plan on both sides of the aisle. <http://www.eenews.net/stories/1060028614>

**Treehugger - EPA catches Dow in weed-killer lie, asks court to reverse approval - 11/30/15** - Last year we reported on the EPA's expanding approval of the "probably carcinogenic" herbicide, Enlist Duo, and how lethal the product could be to a number of endangered species, let alone us humans. Now comes super surprising news that the EPA has filed a motion with the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit to reverse the approval. <http://www.treehugger.com/sustainable-agriculture/epa-catches-dow-weedkiller-lie-asks-court-reverse-approval.html>

**BCTV.org - Clean Water Rule Challenged in Court and Congress - 11/30/15** - The Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Water Rule has been put on hold by federal courts, but environmental groups fear some in Congress may try to overturn it with legislation. [http://www.bctv.org/special\\_reports/environment/clean-water-rule-challenged-in-court-and-congress/article\\_ef9e6aac-976d-11e5-a5f2-af5d0711bd46.html](http://www.bctv.org/special_reports/environment/clean-water-rule-challenged-in-court-and-congress/article_ef9e6aac-976d-11e5-a5f2-af5d0711bd46.html)

**Water Online - Meet The Judge Who May Block The Clean Water Rule - 12/1/15** - Congressional Republicans have mounted numerous legislative efforts to stop a controversial federal clean water regulation, but in the end it was one man in North Dakota who managed to ground implementation to a halt. <http://www.wateronline.com/doc/meet-the-judge-who-may-block-the-clean-water-rule-0001>

## **Paris Climate Conference**

**BBC - China's about-face on climate change - 11/30/15** - With a hard pledge on peaking carbon emissions and with ever more ambitious targets on installing renewables, China has become one of the countries to watch at this week's Paris conference. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-34929561>

**CNN - Climate change: Why you should pay attention to the COP21 summit in Paris** - 11/30/15 - So, back to Paris, where nearly 150 world leaders are working fight global warming at the COP21 -- it stands for Conference of Parties, and this is its 21st annual meeting. There has been a deal -- or treaty -- in the works to try to corral nearly 200 countries into getting a handle on the carbon emissions, which most all scientists agree is driving global warming. It's a very bare-bones agreement.  
<http://www.cnn.com/2015/11/30/europe/cop21-why-care-paris-global-warming/>

**The White House - President Obama Speaks at the Paris Climate Conference: "Let's get to work"** - 11/30/15 - President Obama kicked off the the United Nations Climate Change conference in Paris with remarks to world leaders representing nearly 200 countries. <https://medium.com/act-on-climate/president-obama-speaks-at-the-paris-climate-conference-let-s-get-to-work-aecc61b5686>

**Washington Times - The cost of climate change: Cold, hard cash sought for support of Obama's deal** - 12/1/15 - Ugandan Foreign Minister Sam Kutesa was explicit earlier this year when asked what it would take for developing countries to sign up for the emerging U.S.-led climate deal: "Money." His candor was recounted in an April email between two of the Obama administration's top global warming officials, who called the succinct wisdom from Mr. Kutesa the "best answer of [the] night."  
<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/nov/29/cop-21-climate-deal-hinges-on-cash-payouts-to-deve/>

**Washington Post (blog) - The Paris climate change summit, explained in 4 charts** - 11/30/15 - The intent of the United Nations was that countries would have a central place to come together and address important issues. For a variety of reasons, the U.N. has rarely upheld that vision. But the gathering getting underway in Paris this week, the 21st annual convening to address the problem of climate change, offers a chance for the U.N. to actually do what it was intended to do.  
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2015/11/30/the-united-nations-climate-change-talks-explained-in-4-charts/>

**ABC News - Two in Three Call Climate Change Serious; Many Still See Scientific Disagreement (Poll)** - 11/30/15 - Nearly two-thirds of Americans call climate change a serious problem facing the United States, with more than half calling it very serious. But those numbers have slipped in the past year and a half, marking lingering doubts about the issue's severity among a minority of adults.  
<http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/call-climate-change-scientific-disagreement-poll/story?id=35466509>

**Environmental Protection Newswire - EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy to attend UN Climate Change Conference** - 11/30/15 - EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy will be in Paris from December 5 to 10 for the second week of the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference to discuss American progress and the need for international cooperation. <http://epnewswire.com/stories/510650493-epa-administrator-gina-mccarthy-to-attend-un-climate-change-conference>

## Renewable Fuels Standard

**Biofuels Digest - EPA bumps up US Renewable Fuel Standard volumes for 2015-2016, in final ruling** - 11/30/15 - Congress feared at the time the RFS was established that the oil & gas industry would use its effective monopoly of infrastructure to strangle growth of biofuels past an E10 saturation point, which essentially happened. Critics say the EPA and Obama Administration have caved in to Big Oil on this one. Includes what stakeholders had to say.

<http://www.biofuelsdigest.com/bdigest/2015/11/30/epa-bumps-up-us-renewable-fuel-standard-volumes-for-2015-2016-in-final-ruling/>

**Lincoln (Neb.) Journal-Star - Nebraska ethanol industry disappointed in EPA biofuel targets** - 11/30/15 - Nebraskan corn and ethanol industry officials called EPA's final renewable fuel standards released on Monday both disappointing and a wake-up call.

[http://journalstar.com/business/local/nebraska-ethanol-industry-disappointed-in-epa-biofuel-targets/article\\_da47a341-fec7-5539-94d0-12d4b818bd16.html](http://journalstar.com/business/local/nebraska-ethanol-industry-disappointed-in-epa-biofuel-targets/article_da47a341-fec7-5539-94d0-12d4b818bd16.html)

**Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Gazette - New ethanol standard a disappointment for Iowa ag interests** - 11/30/15 - Iowa agricultural and ethanol interests were disappointed Monday by EPA's final ethanol volume requirements — more than proposed six months ago, but less than what Congress ordered.

<http://www.thegazette.com/subject/news/government/new-ethanol-standard-a-disappointment-for-iowa-ag-interests-20151130>

**Omaha (Neb.) World-Herald - EPA increases renewable fuels standard, giving boost to Nebraska, Iowa ethanol industries** - 11/30/15 - The Nebraska and Iowa corn ethanol industries — the nation's largest — received a small boost Monday after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency raised the amount of renewables that must be part of the nation's motor-fuel supply.

[http://www.omaha.com/money/epa-increases-renewable-fuels-standard-giving-boost-to-nebraska-iowa/article\\_c3d24d60-97a6-11e5-9bcd-0be0caa7392b.html](http://www.omaha.com/money/epa-increases-renewable-fuels-standard-giving-boost-to-nebraska-iowa/article_c3d24d60-97a6-11e5-9bcd-0be0caa7392b.html)

**Des Moines Register - Ethanol producers criticize new EPA fuel standard** - 11/30/15 - Renewable fuel and corn producers, along with Iowa officials, are widely criticizing the Obama administration's new requirement for the amount of ethanol that must be blended into the nation's gasoline, saying it falls far short of the aggressive production targets that Congress set nearly a decade ago.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/politics/2015/11/30/epa-ethanol-requirement-for-fuel-supply/76560120/>

**Associated Press - EPA boosts amount of ethanol in gasoline supply** - 12/1/15 - The Obama administration is boosting the amount of ethanol and other renewable fuels in the gasoline supply despite sustained opposition by an unusual alliance of oil companies, environmentalists and some GOP

presidential candidates. [http://globegazette.com/news/iowa/epa-boosts-amount-of-ethanol-in-gasoline-supply/article\\_74fbc62-5d3e-5e3d-a81b-84cc7a400f58.html](http://globegazette.com/news/iowa/epa-boosts-amount-of-ethanol-in-gasoline-supply/article_74fbc62-5d3e-5e3d-a81b-84cc7a400f58.html)

**Radio Iowa - Iowans react to EPA final rule on renewable fuels use - 11/30/15** - EPA announced its final targets for using renewable fuels in the next two years under what's called the federal Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). The final numbers released today for biodiesel and ethanol are below the original numbers called for in the law. <http://www.radioiowa.com/2015/11/30/iowans-react-to-epa-final-rule-on-renewable-fuels-use/>

**Nebraska TV, Kearney, Neb. - Ag Groups Say EPA Ethanol Decision a Step Backwards - 11/30/15** - Local farm groups say the EPA has taken a step backwards on ethanol, with a national policy that uses less ethanol than Congress required. The Environmental Protection Agency has announced final volume requirements under the Renewable Fuel Standard program for 2014 through 2016. <http://www.nebraska.tv/story/30632970/local-ag-groups-react-to-epa-action-on-renewable-fuels-standard>

**KCUR Kansas City Public Radio - EPA Increases Mandate For Ethanol - 12/1/15** - The amount of ethanol blended into the U.S. fuel supply will go up under new rules issued Monday. Ethanol policy is a hot-button issue in farm states, as it is both a major element of the corn economy and a favorite target of environmental groups. <http://kcur.org/post/epa-increases-mandate-ethanol>

**Nebraska Radio Network - EPA reduces ethanol requirement for Renewable Fuel Standard (audio) - 12/1/15** - Environmental Protection Agency officials have lowered the amount of ethanol required to be in the nation's Renewable Fuel Standard, a blow to Nebraska corn farmers. "And you may say that's not very much, but it still amounts to quite a few bushels when you talk about corn grown in Nebraska," Larry Mussack, President of the Nebraska Corn Growers Association, tells Nebraska Radio Network. <http://nebraskaradionetwork.com/2015/12/01/epa-reduces-ethanol-requirement-for-renewable-fuel-standard-audio/>

**Radio Iowa - Senator Grassley blasts EPA's cutting of ethanol level in fuels standard - 12/1/15** - "The EPA just doesn't appreciate that farmers and biofuel producers can generate enough renewable fuels to meet the goals set by Congress — by law," Grassley says. "So, EPA, by cutting this back, is going against the law that Congress passed." Iowa is the nation's number-one ethanol producer. <http://www.radioiowa.com/2015/12/01/senator-grassley-blasts-epas-cutting-of-ethanol-level-in-fuels-standard/>

**Congressman Adrian Smith (Neb.) release - Smith Statement on EPA's Final Renewable Fuel Standard Rule - 11/30/15** - Congressman Adrian Smith (R-NE) released the following statement today after EPA announced its final Renewable Volume Obligation (RVO) numbers: "The final RVO numbers released by the EPA are disappointing and do not reflect the standards for biofuels set by Congress," Smith said. "Despite record corn harvests showing the supply exists, the EPA continues to undermine consumer choice at the fuel pump through arbitrary regulations." <https://adriansmith.house.gov/press-release/smith-statement-epa%E2%80%99s-final-renewable-fuel-standard-rule>

**Congressman Steve King (Iowa) release (video only – 1:59) - King Comments on Final RFS**

**Volume Requirements** - 11/30/15 - Congressman Steve King released a video statement after EPA unveiled the final volume requirements under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) for 2014 through 2016. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DsrX\\_niiX-k&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DsrX_niiX-k&feature=youtu.be)

**KMA Radio Shenandoah, Iowa - Iowa Corn Growers Association responds to RFS** - 12/1/15 - "While we are pleased EPA has taken a step forward to revise its original proposal, any reduction in the RVO below the statutory levels will significantly cut America's use of cleaner burning renewable fuels and halt continued demand for corn-based ethanol," said Bob Hemesath, a farmer from Decorah and President of the Iowa Corn Growers Association (ICGA). "At a time when corn prices are below the cost of production, this will be a blow to Iowa's rural economy." [http://www.kmaland.com/ag/iowa-corn-growers-association-responds-to-rfs/article\\_d802ea7e-9855-11e5-9550-ff3193c725fd.html](http://www.kmaland.com/ag/iowa-corn-growers-association-responds-to-rfs/article_d802ea7e-9855-11e5-9550-ff3193c725fd.html)

**Iowa Watchdog - EPA makes ethanol decision that ticks off both sides** - 11/30/15 - The Environmental Protection Agency got a two-fer on Monday: It made a decision on ethanol that angered both sides of the debate concerning one of the federal government's most controversial mandates. <http://watchdog.org/249361/epa-ethanol-decision/>

**Fortune - Why Ethanol Makers Are Actually Relieved With New EPA Cuts** - 12/1/15 - The Environmental Protection Agency issued revised energy guidelines that reduce targets set in a 2007 law for the amount of biofuel that must be added to gasoline in the U.S., but the cuts were less than expected. Farmers and ethanol companies welcomed the change since the cuts laid out earlier this year were originally more severe. <http://fortune.com/2015/12/01/ethanol-stocks-rebound-epa-rules/>

**Politico - Vilsack's RFS rounds** - 12/1/15 - Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, in between meetings and other events as part of his trip to Brussels on Monday, made time to chat with the National Corn Growers Association and ethanol groups Renewable Fuels Association and Growth Energy about the Obama administration's ongoing commitment to renewable fuels. <http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-agriculture/2015/12/vilsacks-rfs-rounds-nyc-sodium-warning-labels-kick-in-today-who-reports-has-had-limited-impact-on-red-processed-meat-sales-211518>

**E&E Daily - Will congressional opposition to RFS rule lead to reform?** - 12/1/15 - The ink on U.S. EPA's final rule for the renewable fuel standard is barely dry, but long-standing foes in Congress are already aiming to block the biofuels program. <http://www.eenews.net/stories/1060028711>

**Reuters - U.S. EPA finalizes 2016 renewables target at 18.1 bln gallons** - 11/30/15 - U.S. oil companies will likely push past 10 percent ethanol and other biofuel content in motor fuels in 2016 after the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set levels on Monday that sparked criticism from both sides of the debate over alternative fuel use. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/12/01/usa-biofuels->

**Washington Examiner - EPA: New ethanol requirements could hurt car engines** - 12/1/15 - More ethanol will be added to the nation's gasoline supply under new requirements than vehicle engines can handle, the Environmental Protection Agency confirmed Monday. That has angered oil industry groups and consumers who are concerned about pushing past the "blend wall," or the point at which a car engine is damaged by burning too much ethanol. <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/epa-new-ethanol-requirements-could-hurt-car-engines/article/2577312>

**Ag Professional - EPA issues reset of RFS fuel levels** - 12/1/15 - RFS backers have promoted ethanol's low-carbon qualities, while doubters questioned the conventional wisdom that ethanol reduces global warming. But the announcement of the new RFS was done to coincide with President Obama's speech at the U.N. climate conference in Paris. <http://www.agprofessional.com/news/epa-issues-reset-rfs-fuel-levels>

**Grist - The EPA raises the Renewable Fuels Standard. Here's why that makes no sense** - 11/30/15 - "More renewable" sounds like a good thing, but in this case it's not. Growing crops and then turning them into energy is just really inefficient — it drives more land into agricultural production (with all the attendant environmental problems) and is generally worse for climate change than plain old petroleum. <http://grist.org/article/the-epa-raises-the-renewable-fuels-standard-heres-why-that-makes-no-sense/>

## **Chris Whitley**

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